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A NOTE ON THE INOCULATION OF THE RHESUS MONKEY WITH BLOOD, SPINAL FLUID, AND NERVOUS TISSUE FROM PELLAGRINS.

By C. H. **Lavinder**, Passed Assistant Surgeon.

[From the Hygienic Laboratory, Washington, D. C.]

While pellagra, by the most earnest students of its etiology, has been, and still is, regarded as belonging to the class of food poisonings, allied to ergotism or beriberi, there are nevertheless not wanting those who have urged that the disease may be due to a parasitic microorganism.

Impressed with the lack of experimental work upon the higher animals, certain experiments, which are recorded below, were undertaken for the purpose of trying to determine whether pellagra might be transmitted to monkeys by the inoculation of certain body fluids or tissues taken from pellagrins. The animals used were nine young *Macacus rhesus* monkeys, all apparently in good condition.

Monkey No. 1. November 3, 1910, received intraperitoneally 7.5 c. c. of defibrinated blood drawn from an arm vein of A. L.

Monkey No. 2. November 3, 1910, received intraperitoneally 10 c. c. whole blood, drawn from an arm vein of M. R.

Monkey No. 3. November 3, 1910, received intraperitoneally 7 c. c. defibrinated blood, drawn from an arm vein of M. J.

Monkey No. 4. November 4, 1910, received intraperitoneally 10 c. c. clear spinal fluid, drawn from M. J.

Monkey No. 5. November 5, 1910, received intraperitoneally 3.5 c. c. slightly blood-tinged, spinal fluid, drawn from A. L.

Monkey No. 6. November 5, 1910, received intraperitoneally 10 c. c. very slightly cloudy, spinal fluid, drawn from D. W.

Monkey No. 7. November 8, 1910, received subdurally 0.5 c. c. of an emulsion of spinal cord, removed from the body of M. J. More properly speaking, the injection was made intracerebrally; the skull, after incising the skin, was punctured and the emulsion injected directly into the cerebrum. The emulsion was made by rubbing up a piece of the dorsal portion of the spinal cord in a small quantity of physiologic salt solution. The cord, removed very shortly after death, had been preserved in sterile glycerine for 28 hours when used.

Monkey No. 8. November 8, 1910, received subdurally (as above) 0.5 c. c. of the same emulsion as monkey No. 7, and at the same time intraperitoneally 3 c. c. of the same emulsion.

Monkey No. 9. November 8. 1910, received subdurally (as above) 0.5 c. c. of an emulsion of a piece of the same dorsal cord as used in monkeys Nos. 7 and 8, made in the same way, but this piece of cord had been preserved, when used, for 28 hours in equal parts of sterile glycerine and physiologic salt solution.

Glucose bouillon fermentation tubes were inoculated from the emulsion used in monkeys Nos. 7, 8, and 9 at the time the injections were made. The piece of cord preserved in glycerine gave a growth of what appeared to be an ordinary *staphylococcus;* subcultures on agar and bouillon confirmed this. The tubes inoculated from the emulsion of the cord preserved in equal parts of glycerine and salt solution remained sterile.

The cases from which the blood and spinal fluid were secured were all marked cases of pellagra displaying all the acute phenomena of the disease, including marked erythemas of both the "wet" and "dry" forms. All were alienated and had probably suffered from the disease for some months or longer. The case from which the pieces of spinal cord were derived had terminated, presenting a typical picture of so-called typhoid pellagra.

The monkeys were kept in small wire cages on the ordinary laboratory diet, and care was taken that at least some of the cages should be exposed daily to as much direct sunlight as possible. Temperatures of all monkeys were taken daily for several weeks, and they have now been kept under observation for about six months. Not one of them has displayed any change worthy of note.

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CEREBROSPINAL MENINGITIS IN GREECE.

Report by T. J. Feltsos, Acting Assistant Surgeon, United States Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, Athens, Greece.

Pursuant to Bureau instructions of April 20, 1911, in connection with the prevalence of cerebrospinal meningitis in Greece, I have collected the following on the subject:

HISTORY OF THE DISEASE.

In a treatise published by Dr. Savas, professor of hygiene and microbiology in the University of Athens, it is shown that the disease first made its appearance in Greece in 1843. From that year to 1868 a number of cases occurred at different periods in various districts, but the first epidemic was marked during the winter of 1868–9, when a large number of cases occurred. After that the disease gradually disappeared, a few sporadic cases only occurring from time to time. Since the year 1881, however, the disease has been epidemic, particularly during the winter and spring.

EPIDEMIC OF 1910–11.

The present epidemic first broke out in Athens toward the end of November, 1910, and little by little spread throughout the whole of Greece. It attained its maximum force during February. It then began gradually to subside and has continued to decline to the present date. A few cases now occur from time to time in Athens and Piraeus and in some of the districts near Athens, as Megara, Levadia, Lamia, also in the Province of Thessaly. The disease has practically disappeared from the Peloponnesus, no case having been heard of there for about a month with the exception of the village of Mavrovouni near Calamata and the Province of Triphyllia, where cases of the disease have been reported recently.

The large number of cases this year has been attributed to the exceptionally severe winter. Toward the end of March, following a change of the weather to mild, the disease had to a certain extent